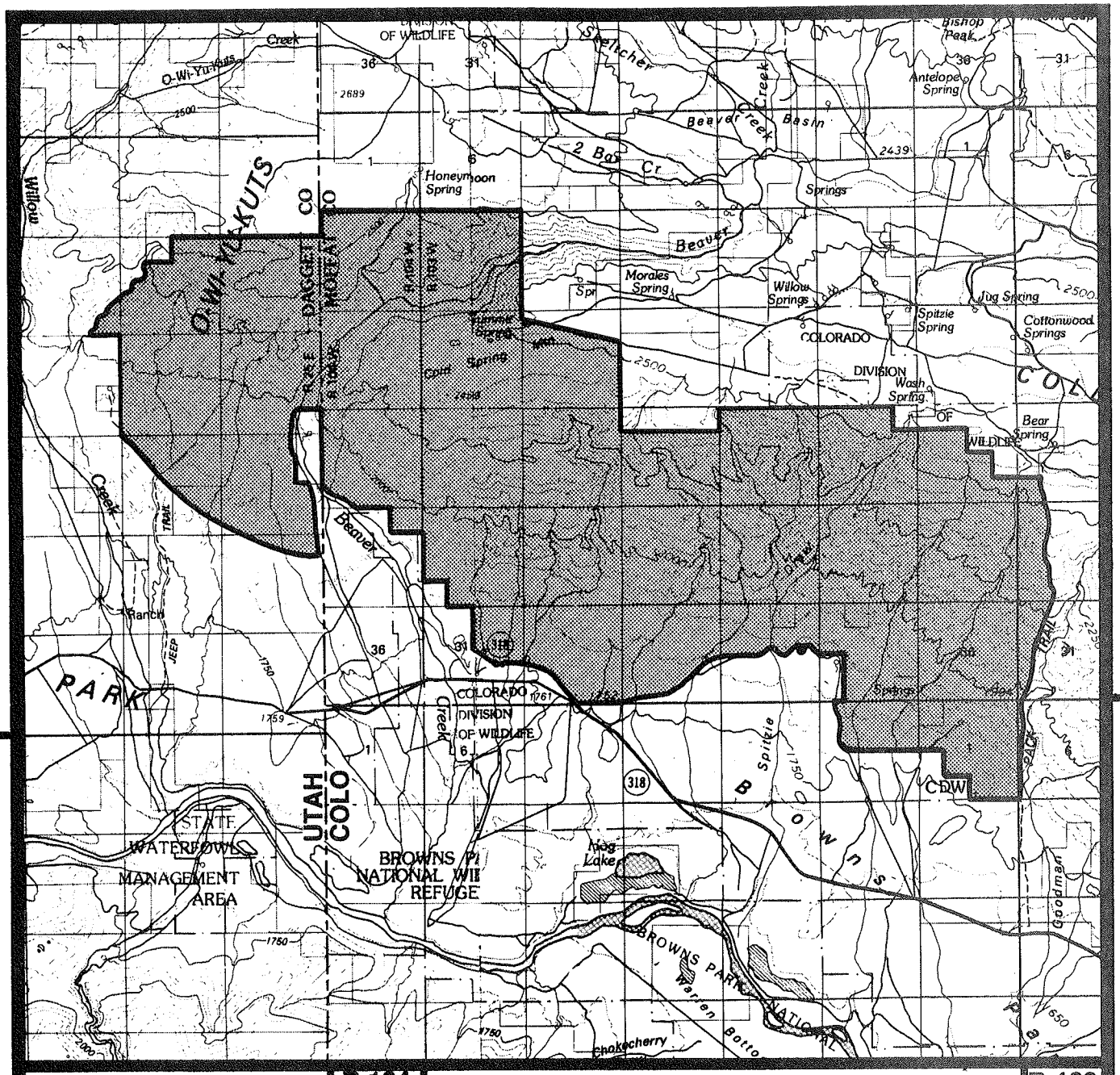
West Cold Spring Wilderness Study Area



RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS (NONE)

RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS

LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS (NONE)

SPLIT ESTATE (NONE)

STATE (NONE)

PRIVATE (NONE)

West Cold Spring WSA
Proposal
CO-010-208 and UT-080-103

January 1991

WEST COLD SPRING WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

THE STUDY AREA: 17,682 acres

The West Cold Spring WSA (CO-010-208 and UT-080-103) is located in Moffat County, Colorado, and Dagget County, Utah, approximately 65 miles northwest of Maybell, Colorado. The WSA includes 17,682 acres of BLM lands (14,482 acres in Colorado and 3,200 acres in Utah). There are no private inholdings within the WSA (see Table 1). Several sections and parcels of Colorado and Utah State lands adjoin the WSA. The WSA is bounded on the north by undeveloped State and BLM lands, on the east by the Matt trail (which is closed to motorized travel); on the south by a way through undeveloped BLM lands, Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge, and two small parcels of private land. One of these parcels is about 120 acres in size, while the other parcel is about 80 acres in size. The 120-acre parcel is bounded on three sides by the WSA, while the 80-acre parcel is bounded on two sides. In Utah the area is bounded by an undefined southern boundary as well as undeveloped State, private, and BLM lands. The WSA is shown on the map.

This WSA consists primarily of the western portion of the rugged, south-facing slopes of Cold Spring Mountain. This area is characterized by deep draws and canyons that have been cut through the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Plateau, forming a series of plateaus and ridges along the northern margins of the Green River Valley known as Browns Park. Cold Spring Mountain provides significant background viewshed from the valley floor and the Green River in Browns Park.

TABLE 1
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY OF THE STUDY AREA

TOTAL ACREAGE	
WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	17,682
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	0
Total	17,682
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	0
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	0
In-holdings (State, private)	0
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	17,682
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	17,682
In-holdings (State, Private)	0

Source: BLM File Data

TABLE 1 (Continued)
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY OF THE STUDY AREA

UTAH	
WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	3,200
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	0
Total	3,200
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	0
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	0
In-holdings (State, private)	0
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	3,200
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	3,200
In-holdings (State, Private)	0

Source: BLM File Data

TABLE 1 (Continued)
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY OF THE STUDY AREA

COLORADO	
WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	14,482
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	0
Total	14,482
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	0
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	0
In-holdings (State, private)	0
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	14,482
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	14,482
In-holdings (State, Private)	0

Source: BLM File Data

The WSA appears to be in a transition zone between the Wyoming Basin Province ecoregion to the north and Rocky Mountain Forest Province ecoregion to the south. Diverse vegetation communities cover the area consisting of sagebrush steppe and saltbush/greasewood in the low elevations to dense pinyon-juniper woodlands which dominate the area, to large old growth mountain mahogany and oak scrub communities at higher elevations. Limber pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and aspen trees are scattered throughout the higher elevations with sagebrush steppe occurring again with associated species. Dense riparian vegetation lines Beaver Creek Canyon and Spitzie Draw adding botanic diversity to this WSA. The dark green color of the pinyon-juniper woodlands contrasts with the deep red sandstone rock outcrops found throughout the WSA. A fungi lichen ecotone on the rock outcrops adds interest to the area.

The area provides habitat for diverse wildlife species including elk, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, coyote, beaver, raptors, and numerous other birds, mammals reptiles, and amphibians. The area is managed as part of the Colorado Division of Wildlife Class II High Priority Fishery Resource with probable occurrence of and documented past occurrence of State or Federal threatened species. Beaver Creek presently is inhabited by Yellowstone cutthroat trout, brook trout, and brown trout. The aquatic and riparian habitat is presently in above average condition.

The WSA is habitat for Oenothera acutissima (acute leaf evening primrose), a candidate for listing as a threatened or endangered plant species. The bald eagle and peregrine falcon are endangered species which may inhabit the area, however, no formal surveys were conducted to determine the presence of threatened or endangered animals or plants.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Craig District Wilderness Final

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published November 5, 1990. Three alternatives were analyzed in the EIS; all wilderness (17,682 acres recommended for wilderness designation), boundary adjustment alternative (19,122 acres recommended for wilderness designation, the result of adding 1,44 acres of BLM lands outside the WSA boundary), and no wilderness (which is the recommendation of this report).

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

0 acres
(recommended for wilderness)

17,682 acres
(recommended for nonwilderness)

West Cold Spring WSA is not recommended for designation as wilderness. The area would be released for uses other than wilderness. The boundary adjustment alternative, which recommends 19,122 acres for wilderness designation, is the environmentally preferable alternative since its implementation would result in the least change to the natural environment over the long term and provides the best opportunity to protect and preserve the outstanding wilderness values of the western end of Cold Spring Mountain.

During the study phase of the wilderness review process, BLM decided that the area would be best managed in a manner similar to the adjoining BLM lands. For the Colorado portion of the WSA, the Little Snake Resource Management Plan (RMP), June 1989, outlines management of the area. The management objectives for the area are to maintain and improve the quality of: (1) the habitat for elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep; (2) the fisheries in Beaver Creek; and (3) the recreational opportunities (primarily hunting use). Wildlife habitat management plans and wildlife habitat improvement projects would be developed and implemented to achieve these management objectives for the area. The area would be open to oil and gas and other mineral leasing or claims and development of any mineral resource. Livestock grazing would continue and rangeland improvement projects or vegetation treatments may be authorized. Forest or woodland products may be harvested and realty actions such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits may occur. Recreation use would be allowed on existing roads and trails on about three-fourths of the WSA. About one-fourth of the WSA would be open to off-road vehicle (ORV) use with no restrictions.

Although BLM recognizes the areas wilderness values, the resource values determined to be most important (livestock grazing, mineral development, and wildlife habitat improvement projects) could be best managed as outlined in the Little Snake RMP. Over the long term, the wilderness values could be irretrievably lost. Although there are no special stipulations to protect the wilderness values, any development must be consistent with the management objectives for the area. The Utah portion of the WSA would be under multiple use management with no special stipulations to protect wilderness values.

CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The West Cold Spring WSA is predominantly natural in character with negligible human imprints. The WSA consists primarily of the western portion of the rugged, steep, south-facing slopes of Cold Spring Mountain. The mountain trends from west to east-southeast. Most of the area is characterized by steep draws and canyons which have cut the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Plateau forming a series of plateaus and ridges along the northern margin of the Green River Valley known as Browns Park. Cold Spring Mountain provides a significant background viewshed from the valley floor and the Green River in Browns Park. The WSA ranges in elevation from 5,800 feet in the southern foothills to over 8,500 feet on the northwestern boundary.

The WSA appears to be in a transition zone between the Wyoming Basin Province ecoregion to the north and the Rocky Mountain Province ecoregion to the south. Diverse vegetative communities cover the WSA consisting of sagebrush steppe, and saltbush/greasewood in the lower elevations to dense old growth pinyon-juniper woodlands, which dominate the WSA, to large old growth mountain mahogany and oakscrub and associated species at higher elevations. Limber pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and aspen trees are scattered throughout the higher elevations with sagebrush steppe and associated species occurring again. Dense riparian vegetation consisting of cottonwood, willow, boxelder, and associated species are found along Beaver Creek Canyon and in Spitzie Draw. A colorful fungi lichen ecotone is found on the numerous red rock outcrops and

rounds out the botanic diversity found throughout the area which complements the visual resource and adds interest to the area.

The areas diversity and unroaded character makes it ideal habitat for numerous wildlife species including elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, raptors, and numerous other birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Beaver Creek supports an excellent trout fishery and aquatic and riparian habitat is presently in above average condition. Bald eagle and peregrine falcon are potential inhabitants of the WSA. No formal surveys have been conducted to determine the presence of threatened or endangered animals or plants.

Minor imprints of humans within the WSA consist of 1 mile of fence, one water tank with pit, three developed springs, 1.25 miles of water pipeline, and a cattle trail the length of Beaver Creek Canyon. These imprints are scattered and natural revegetation and topography diminish the impact of these improvements making them substantially unnoticeable within the area.

Solitude

The rugged topography and dense vegetation in the WSA provides a setting which allows outstanding solitude experiences throughout the WSA. The deep, twisting Beaver Creek Canyon and Spitzie Draw create a secluded setting which isolates the visitor. Expansive vistas from the top of the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Plateau look southward into Browns Park, the Diamond Breaks WSA, Dinosaur National Monument, and on clear days into the High Uinta Mountains in Utah. These views create the sense of vastness, open space, and isolation which provide truly outstanding opportunities to experience solitude.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The West Cold Spring WSA offers opportunities for users to participate in and experience primitive and unconfined types of recreation activities which are considered to be outstanding. Activities include hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing within the large, remote and rugged terrain of Cold Spring Mountain. The size and blocked configuration of the area enhances the variety and number of places for high quality primitive types of recreation experiences and allows relatively unrestricted movement. The rugged terrain restricts travel to foot or horseback. The WSA is accessible year round from Browns Park.

Special Features

The area is known to possess historic and prehistoric cultural sites varying from Paleo-Indian to more modern Ute and Shoshone tribes. The WSA is also included within the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Cold Springs Quality Elk Management Area. This WSA, along with the Cross Mountain WSA, supports a herd of bighorn sheep.

Beaver Creek is a Colorado Division of Wildlife Class II, High Priority Fishery Resource with probable occurrence of State or Federal threatened species. The upper reaches of Beaver Creek once contained a pure strain of Colorado River cutthroat trout, formerly a State-listed threatened species. Beaver Creek presently is inhabited by Yellowstone cutthroat, brook trout, and brown trout. Aquatic and riparian habitats are presently in above average condition.

Cold Spring Mountain is a significant viewshed from Browns Park which is experiencing increased visitor use. No formal surveys have been conducted to determine the presence of threatened or endangered animals. Habitat for Oenothera acutissima (acute leaf evening primrose) occurs within the WSA. A known location also occurs at Cold Spring, but it is outside the study area. Oenothera acutissima is a "candidate" for listing as a threatened or endangered species and appears on the Federal Register Notice of Review as a category 2 entry. Its habitat is seasonally moist to wet sandy and gravelly soils in meadows (depressions or stream courses) and springs in mixed conifer forests and sagebrush scrub.

Marginal nesting habitat is available for the peregrine falcon. A possible observation of a peregrine falcon was made in 1988 by an employee of the Colorado Division of Wildlife during an aerial survey. This observation was never verified. The bald eagle is also a potential inhabitant.

The WSA appears to be in a transition zone between the Rocky Mountain Forest Province ecoregion and the Wyoming Basin Province ecoregion. There are no other WSAs within Colorado within the Wyoming Basin Province.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

Assessing the diversity of natural systems and features as represented by ecosystems:

Wilderness designation of this WSA would add ecosystems which currently have little or no representation in the NWPS in Colorado. The WSA appears to be in a transition zone between the Rocky Mountain Forest Province and Wyoming Basin Province ecoregions. The area has been classified as having juniper-pinyon woodland potential natural vegetation (PNV) (12,420 acres) in the Rocky Mountain Forest Province and sagebrush steppe PNV (5,262 acres) in the Wyoming Basin Province. There is only one designated area in Colorado and only 2 areas nationwide with juniper-pinyon woodland. There are no designated wilderness areas in Colorado with Wyoming Basin, sagebrush steppe. A portion of Dinosaur National Monument to the south is representative of the juniper-pinyon ecosystem and although portions are administratively endorsed for wilderness designation, it is not part of the NWPS. West Cold Spring is the only WSA in Colorado within the Wyoming Basin Province (see Table 2).

Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a day's driving time (5 hours) of major population centers:

The West Cold Spring WSA is within a days drive of two major populations centers in Utah and within 6-1/2 hours drive of Denver, Colorado. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM study areas within a 5-hour drive of the populations centers.

Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas:

The West Cold Spring WSA would contribute to balancing the geographic distribution of areas within the NWPS.

TABLE 2
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)	**AREAS**	**ACRES**	**AREAS**	**ACRES**
NATIONWIDE (ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOREST PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	2	41,451	22	167,864
NATIONWIDE (WYOMING BASIN PROVINCE)				
Sagebrush Steppe	1	67,026	17	235,293
COLORADO (ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOREST PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	11,181	16	119,424
COLORADO (WYOMING BASIN PROVINCE)				
Sagebrush Steppe	0	0	0	0

Source: BLM File Data.

TABLE 3
WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS

	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
POPULATION CENTERS	**AREAS**	**ACRES**	**AREAS**	**ACRES**
Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah	11	685,088	42	1,826,904
Provo-Orem, Utah	12	730,088	52	2,307,031

Source: BLM File Data.

The nearest designated wilderness is the High Uintas (460,000 acres) some 50 miles to the west in Utah. However, the landforms and ecosystems are entirely different than those found in the WSA and West Cold Springs has year round access from Browns Park. Part of Dinosaur National Monument to the south has been administratively endorsed for wilderness designation. The Diamond Breaks WSA lies some 4 miles to the south on the opposite side of Browns Park. The West Cold Spring WSA, Diamond Breaks WSA, and Dinosaur National Monument complement each other with different ecosystems, landforms, and opportunities to attain diverse wilderness experiences.

There are an additional eight BLM study areas within a 1 to 3 hour drive of West Cold Spring. Since this WSA is accessible year round, represents different ecosystems, and provides different recreation opportunities, the area expands opportunities to attain diverse wilderness experiences.

Manageability

(The area must be capable of being effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.)

The West Cold Spring WSA could be effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character. The large, blocked configuration of the area enhances management. There are no pre-FLPMA leases and only one post-FLPMA oil and gas lease, and no mining claims within the WSA. The post-FLPMA oil and gas lease would not be developed if the area was designated as wilderness. Approximately one-half of the WSA is unallotted for grazing. No range improvement projects are planned. The WSA is bordered mostly by undeveloped BLM lands and State lands. The boundary adjustment alternative would enhance management of the area by expanding the boundaries to include areas with wilderness characteristics and acquiring adjacent State lands to be managed as wilderness, thus enhancing a large area with manageable and identifiable boundaries. These boundary adjustments include 1.5 miles of Beaver Creek Canyon and Little Beaver Creek Canyon. The northern boundary would follow a ridge line for approximately 4 miles providing an easily identifiable boundary on the ground.

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The West Cold Spring WSA lies 3 to 4 miles south of the mapped outcrop of the Uinta Fault, a south dipping thrust fault. Geologic mapping of the fault has resulted in differing opinions of its attitude.

There are three deep (subthrust) oil and gas exploration drill holes just north of the WSA boundary along an east to west trend. The McMoran-Freeport 43-2a drill hole intersected the Uinta Fault at 8,890 feet, the Champlin-Phillips-Bear Springs 31-19 well intersected the fault at 7,100 feet, and the Amoco Cold Spring #1 drill hole intersected the fault at 9,233 feet. Projecting these Uinta Fault intersections near the WSA to the fault outcrop resulted in an average fault plane angle of about 25 degrees with a projected depth of 9,000 to 16,000 feet below the WSA at the north and south boundaries respectively.

These depths are well within the limits of modern drilling technology and coupled with the oil and gas shows, especially at the Amoco and McMoran-Freeport wells, indicate that there is a moderate potential for oil and gas within the WSA.

The proximity of the WSA to the Uinta Thrust Fault, and to subthrust drill holes that had good oil and gas shows (the Amoco Cold Springs #1 and the McMoran-Freeport 43-2a), indicates that there is a good likelihood that oil and gas exploration would take place in the foreseeable future. The drilling complexities and costs associated with 10,000 to 15,000 feet deep drill holes in overthrust regions would keep such exploration limited to the best possible prospects. This would also probably limit exploration to less than 10 drill holes. Large, producible fields, while possible, are not expected to be discovered in this WSA.

Industry input, interest in oil and gas leasing, and shows of oil and gas in nearby subthrust wells indicate that the foreseeable future could see up to six wells drilled in the WSA for exploration purposes. This exploration scenario is only one conceivable option, and has been developed for analysis purposes in the Final Wilderness EIS, but is typical of what could be expected if the WSA is not designated wilderness.

Any development of an oil and gas field would depend on discovering a large enough reservoir of producible oil and gas, favorable market conditions, and proximity of this field to a pipeline or storage and transportation. No development scenario has been developed due to the highly speculative nature of any exploration successfully fulfilling these criteria.

There are no mining claims, nor are there any reported mineral occurrences within the WSA, although there is minor gold, silver, and copper mineralization in small veins in the region.

Minor hot springs occur west of the WSA, but the area is not considered prospectively valuable for any leasable mineral resources, other than oil and gas. The distance from any markets for salable mineral resources preclude any uses other than local road or drill pad construction.

Impacts on Resources

The comparative impacts table (Table 4) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for the three alternatives for this WSA.

Local Social and Economic Considerations

With either designation or nondesignation of this WSA as wilderness, it is predicted that the area would still see an increase in recreation use. However, designation of the West Cold Spring WSA as wilderness would help to incrementally increase long-term recreation use in the Browns Park and Maybell areas. Greater public awareness and publicity of the area would also draw wilderness users from outside northwest Colorado. Recreation use of the area is projected to increase from 1,000 to 1,200 visitor days or more. This increase in recreation use would generate some long-term increase in local income and although not large, could be noticed in smaller communities in the area such as Browns Park and Maybell. These economic benefits to smaller communities could be more noticeable if all the areas proposed for wilderness in the northwest part of Colorado became wilderness.

Local economies would not be substantially affected by oil and gas exploration or development if the areas were not designated as wilderness. Oil and gas activity would, however, result in a small, short-term increase in local incomes. Social factors were not considered a significant issue in the study.

Summary of WSA Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Certain comments reviewed during the inventory process and early stages of the Draft EIS were used to develop significant study issues and various alternatives for the ultimate management of those lands with wilderness values.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 118 comments (35 oral and 83 written) were received which specifically addressed this WSA. In general, 110 comments (93 percent) supported wilderness designation and 5 comments (4 percent) favored releasing the area for other uses (no wilderness). Three comments (3 percent) gave no recommendation.

Specific comments by those favoring wilderness designation generally focused on the outstanding wilderness values including significant and valuable fish and wildlife habitat and outstanding recreation opportunities. Some comments point out that wilderness designation would protect special features in the WSA as well as the visual resource, water, other natural resources, and ecological diversity within the region. Other comments state that the area should be much larger and be expanded to include BLM public lands with wilderness characteristics east of the Matt trail to include Limestone Ridge, Big Joe Basin, and Little Joe Basin as well as the remainder of Beaver Creek Canyon. Generally, comments state that wilderness designation for West Cold Spring is more important than any mineral values or other uses of the area.

Those opposing wilderness designation generally state that there is enough or too much designated wilderness now and favor other uses (grazing, oil and gas exploration, etc), for the WSA. The Moffat County Commissioners are opposed to wilderness designation of West Cold Spring WSA.

No other Federal, State, or local agencies gave WSA specific recommendations, however, the State of Utah Natural Resources Department, Wildlife Resources commented that vegetation manipulation is needed to maintain forage for the bighorn sheep herd in the WSA.

TABLE 4
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF THE IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

Impact Topics	Recommendation No Action/No Wilderness	Boundary Adjustment Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative
Impacts on Wilderness Characteristics	The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation would be lost over an estimated 6,000 acres of the 17,682-acre WSA through combined effects of projected activities and uses.	Opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and the naturalness of the area would be protected and increase on 19,122 acres. Naturalness would be enhanced by allowing existing ways and trails to rehabilitate.	Opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and the naturalness of the area would be protected on the entire 17,682-acre WSA. Naturalness would be enhanced by allowing existing ways and trails to rehabilitate.
Impacts on Ranching Operations	Livestock forage production would increase by about 159 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) from the current level of 661 AUMs to a total of 820 AUMs. Operating costs associated with range improvement projects would remain at current levels because motor vehicle use would be allowed.	Livestock forage production within the proposed area would remain at current levels of 841 AUMs and at 661 AUMs within the original WSA. Operating costs on grazing allotments within the WSA would be slightly higher where livestock operations could be accomplished reasonably without the use of motorized vehicles.	Livestock forage production within the WSA would remain at current levels of 661 AUMs. Operating costs on grazing allotments within the WSA would be slightly higher where livestock operations could be accomplished reasonably without the use of motorized vehicles.
Impacts on Recreation Use and Quality	Recreation use levels are expected to increase from 1,000 visitor days per year to 1,200 visitor days per year. Motorized vehicle use would increase. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would be reduced because of development activities and other uses.	Recreation use levels within the proposed wilderness area are expected to increase from 1,000 visitor days to 1,200 visitor days per year. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would increase in a larger area with a natural setting.	Recreation use levels in the proposed wilderness area are expected to increase from 1,000 visitor days to 1,200 visitor days per year. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would remain unchanged in a natural setting.

TABLE 4 (Continued)
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF THE IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

Impact Topics	Recommendation No Action/No Wilderness	Boundary Adjustment Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative
Impacts on Water Quality	Overall, sediment yields could be increased by 200 percent within 4 percent of the WSA (which would average out to an 8 percent increase throughout the entire WSA) over the short term. In the long term, sediment yields would be decreased by an average of 1.2 percent throughout the WSA. These changes within the WSA would not affect water quality within Beaver Creek or the Green River.	Because no surface-disturbing activities would occur, there would be no change or impact to water quality.	Because no surface-disturbing activities would occur, there would be no change or impact to water quality.
Impacts on Big Game Species (Populations and Habitat) and Eagles	Wildlife habitat would remain in present conditions. Animal numbers of approximately 265 deer, 17 elk, 10 pronghorn, and 40 to 50 bighorn sheep would remain unchanged.	Wildlife habitat would remain in present conditions. Animal numbers of approximately 265 deer, 17 elk, 10 pronghorn, and 40 to 50 bighorn sheep would remain unchanged.	Wildlife habit would remain in present conditions. Animal numbers of approximately 265 deer, 17 elk, 10 pronghorn, and 40 to 50 bighorn sheep would remain unchanged.
Impacts on Mineral Exploration and Production	The area would be open to mineral entry. Oil and gas exploration is expected. No interest in other minerals is expected.	The area would be closed to mineral entry. No potential oil and gas exploration or development would occur. Negative impacts are anticipated to exploration for oil and gas and to collection of subsurface geologic data.	The area would be closed to mineral entry. No potential oil and gas exploration or development would occur. Negative impacts are anticipated to exploration for oil and gas and to collection of subsurface geologic data.
Impacts on Private Lands	No change in ownership or use of Federal land is anticipated.	Acquisition of portions of adjoining State lands would be pursued. Current uses of the land would continue.	Acquisition of portions of adjoining State lands would be pursued. Current uses of the land would continue.